

Project Update: February 2013

The fieldwork portion concluded at the end of 2012 with a wide range of mating, breeding and other social behaviours displayed by birds in this arid riverline. In the winter months their behaviour centred almost exclusively on feeding.

In the winter months only two active nests were observed, both white-backed vulture nests. white-browed sparrow-weaver nests were present, but no activity took place in or near the nests. However, in the early summer months, being breeding time, the change was rapid.

Active nests of southern pied babbler, crimson-breasted shrike, chestnut-vented titbabbler, black-chested prinia, great sparrow and groundscraper thrush were found and the birds were seen either working on the nest or sitting in the nest. Pairs of Kalahari scrub-robin and common scimitarbill were observed repeatedly carrying nest material to the same site and showing mating behaviour.

Surveys of vegetation structure were completed, daily weather records were kept and rainfall figures from 1929 to 2012 were obtained.